

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

September 21, 2017, 1:30 p.m. to
4:07p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region, was called to order by Chair Nancy Wright at 9:00 a.m. on June 30, 2017, in Palm Desert, California.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL (Board Members only)

Nancy Wright, Buford Crites, Tom Davis, Hidali Garcia, Ed Muzik, and Jayne Powell were present.

Ms. Wright thanked Board member Ed Muzik and the Hi-Desert Water District for use of their facility to hold our Regional Board meeting, and also thanked all the Board members attending.

The Board Clerk stated that a quorum was present.

Regional Water Board Counsel: Adriana Nuñez

Regional Board Staff Present:

Jose Angel, Frank Gonzalez, Mary Castaneda, Terry Barnes, Jose Cortez, Jeong-Hee Lim

Others Present:

Bob Stadum, HDWD
Jennifer Poland, HDWD
Sarann Graham, HDWD
Tanya Gruwell, HDWD
Savat Klamphoa, City of Palm Springs
Mickey Luckman, Joshua Basin Water District
Juan Garcia, Palm Springs
Ken Huntzinger, Veolia
Doug Loan, Veolia
Christine Corneille, Palm Springs
Marcus Fuller, City of Palm Springs
Samantha Mena, HDWD
Sam Valdez, Hazen
Steve Bigley, CVWD
Curt Sauer, Joshua Basin Water District
Jared Jaramillo, City of Palm Springs
Ramiro Barajas, City of Palm Springs
Lily Garcia, Public

MINUTES

1. Minutes of June 30, 2017 Board Meeting

MOTION: Buford Crites moved, Jayne Powell seconded and the motion was carried to adopt Minutes, Tom Davis abstained (5 Ayes / 1 Abstain).

PUBLIC FORUM

2. There were no public comments.

UNCONTESTED ITEMS

3. R7-2017-0025 Rescission of Waste Discharge Requirements for Hudson Ranch I LLC Additional Geothermal Wells Project Wellfield Mud Sumps/ Containment Basins, Southwest of Niland – Imperial County
[Doug Wylie]
4. R7-2017-0013 Waste Discharge Requirements for City of Palm Springs, Owner, Veolia West Water Operating Services, Inc. Operator, Palm Springs Wastewater Treatment Plant, Palm Springs - Riverside County
[Jose Cortez]
5. R7-2017-0017 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit and Waste Discharge Requirements for City of Westmorland, Westmorland Wastewater Treatment Plant, Westmorland – Imperial County
[Jeong-Hee Lim]

Chair Wright removed Item 4 from the Uncontested Calendar.

MOTION: Buford Crites moved to vote on Item No. 3 and Item No. 5, Tom Davis seconded, and the motion was carried to unanimously to adopt Board Order R7-2017-0025 and R7-2005-0017.

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS

Chair Wright opened the hearing Item 4, R7-2017-0013 Waste Discharge Requirements for City of Palm Springs, Owner, Veolia West Water Operating Services, Inc. Operator, Palm Springs Wastewater Treatment Plant, Palm Springs - Riverside County.

Marcus Fuller, Assistant Manager, City of Palm Springs stated that the City has worked with Board staff for several years on updating the city's waste discharge permit for its wastewater treatment plant and has had a successful relationship over the last 24 years. He also discussed the City's water conservation and water reuse efforts, the former have resulted in less wastewater flows into the plant and increased Total Dissolved Solids (TDS). He added that the City supported the proposed Order, including the elimination of limits for chloride, fluoride, and sulfate, but that the City was not in favor of the proposed Interim Limit of 700 milligram per liter for TDS. He explained that the City is concerned about not being able to meet the interim limit. He thanked the Board

staff for working with them, and plans to continue working together on these water conservation measures.

Steve Bigley, Director of Environmental Services, Coachella Valley Water District, stated the District supports the removal of the unwarranted effluent limits for chloride sulfates. He looks forward to begin dialogue with Board staff to address the salinity TDS concerns when Board staff will begin to work on renewing the waste discharge permit for the District's plant in Palm Desert.

Mr. Crites asked Board staff Jose Cortez to confirm the conversation he had with him over the phone regarding the six changes that are listed for the proposed Order and whether the changes would adversely affect water quality or the Board's ability to monitor water quality issues. Jose Cortez responded that of the items that were changed in the proposed Order would not impact the Board ability to [protect and monitor water quality]. He also added that the City of Palm Springs has consistently met its existing TDS limit, and that the new proposed interim TDS limit provides the City time (3-4 years) to conduct a source control study.

Jose Angel recommended that the Board adopt the proposed order with errata including the interim TDS limitations. He added that the proposed Order provides the City with an opportunity to come back with data that are more defensible from a technical perspective to develop an ultimate TDS effluent limit—one that should prevent pollution and unreasonable groundwater degradation.

Ms. Powell stated that she appreciates everyone's efforts to put this permit together and thanked them for what they have achieved. She questioned whether there are protocols in place to evaluate the nitrogen study. Mr. Angel stated that there are. Ms. Powell also questioned whether a "Public [Outreach and Education Program]" should be required [by the proposed Order] as part of a technical report, but felt that the City should continue to be transparent with the community. Jose Angel suggested that, instead of requiring it, the proposed Order should [via an amended errata] state that a public outreach program component may be included as part of the technical report.

MOTION: Buford Crites moved, Ed Muzik seconded, and the motion was carried to unanimously to adopt Board Order R7-2017-0013 with amended Errata.

OTHER BUSINESS

6. Informational Update: Schedule of Board Meetings for Calendar Year 2018

All Board members agreed that all 2018 Regional Board Meetings be held on the 2nd Thursday of the month for January, March, May, June, September and November (locations TBD). Also, the Board suggested to hold Workshops in February, April, July, October, and December.

7. Informational Update: State Water Resources Control Board Activities *[Adriana Nuñez]*

Ms. Nunez reported that Ms. Eileen Sobeck is the new State Water Board Executive Director. Ms. Nunez also provided an update on the State Water Board policies that have been in development for the last few years, including the SEP Policy (scheduled for adoption in November) and the Dredge and Fill Policy (no hearing has yet been schedule for adoption). She added that the Enforcement Policy is currently under review by the Office of Administrative

Law, and should be approved within the next two weeks. She concluded that the State Board is drafting a general order for Cannabis Cultivation that will apply throughout the state.

8. Colorado River Basin Water Board Executive Officer's Report
[Jose L. Angel, P.E.]

Mr. Angel reported that he would send a written report to the Board. He also reported that:

- The Water Quality Coordinating Committee meeting [to be held in October 25 and 26] will include a session on the Salton Sea. Presenters at that session will be Kevin Kelley (IID General Manager), Bruce Wilcox, a representative from the State Water Board Division of Water Rights, and Jeff Geraci from Region 7.
- The Coachella Valley Mountain Conservancy awarded a \$218,000 grant to UC Riverside to conduct a study to characterize the Salton Sea's crust formations, and the results of the study will enable the Natural Resources Agency better manage the Sea's problems.
- The NADBank/BECC found money to help Mexico buy equipment to prevent bypasses of raw sewage into the New River.
- The State Water Board will be issuing a Request for Proposal for the engineering services [plans and specifications] and environmental documentation for the trash screen, encasement, and pump-back system for the New River in the Calexico area.
- On October 3, 2017, the State Water Board will be considering adopting a Resolution that would authorize its Executive Director to enter into a contract for up to \$1.4M for the above-mentioned engineering and environmental documentation services.

9. Colorado River Basin Water Board Member Comments

Mr. Muzik introduced and welcomed HDWD attendees Bob Stadum (District President), Sarann Graham (District Vice-President), Roger Mayes (District Director); and District staff Jennifer Poland, Mark Ban, Tony Culver, Mark Bitman. He also welcomed Mickey Luckman (Joshua Basin Water District Director) and Curt Sauer (Joshua Basin Water District General Manager).

10. Colorado River Basin Water Board Chair's Report

Ms. Wright thanked the Hi-Desert Water District for their hospitality. She also stated that the money that Mexicali was able to obtain to buy the equipment to prevent raw sewage bypass into the new river is largely due to Jose Angel's efforts. She thanked Jose for his passion and dedication to this project. Mr. Crites asked if there was money for maintenance, Jose Angel replied no. Ms. Wright also reported that she and Frank Gonzalez would be attending the Bi-National Technical Committee meeting on September 29, 2017 in Mexicali with USEPA and IBWC. Also, Ms. Wright, Ms. Powell, and Mr. Muzik will be attending the WQCC Meeting in October.

11. Informational Update: Yucca Valley Septic Tank Discharge Prohibition and Status of Sewer Project in Yucca Valley
[Mark Ban, Asst. General Mgr. Hi-Desert Water District]

Mark Ban presented an update on the status of the sewer system for Phase 1 of the Prohibition. Specifically he:

- Provided an overview of the Project's construction packages for the sewer collection system and wastewater treatment plant (a.k.a. Water Reclamation Facility).
- Progress in implementing Construction Packages A-D for Phase 1 of the Prohibition;
- Status of private connections to the system; and
- Status of the Water Reclamation Facility.

Mr. Ban stated that:

- Package A consists of installation of manholes, sewer collectors, sewer laterals; and of paving of streets in nine different areas within Phase 1 of the Prohibition. Package A is about 70% complete, and its completion is scheduled for May 2018.
- Package B consists of construction of sewer pumping plants (a.k.a. lift stations) and construction will start in April 2018 and be completed in May 2019.
- Package C also consists of installation of manholes, sewer collectors, and sewer laterals; and of paving of streets. This work is expected to start in January 2018 and be completed in May 2019.
- Package D also consists of installation of manholes, sewer collectors, and sewer laterals; and of paving of streets; and will start in April 2019 and be completed in September 2020.
- Phase 1 will include 3,988 connections to the centralized sewer system, and that the connections to the system will start in 2019.
- Construction of the Water Reclamation Facility is based on a “progressive design-build” model, which will start in November 2017 and be completed in May 2019. For Phase 1, the facility will have treatment capacity for 1,000,000 gallons per day; and [the District] will reclaim up to 1,732 acre-feet per year of effluent from the Facility to recharge groundwater.

Mr. Angel stated that the Town and District are in full compliance with the Prohibition because the District’s project is ahead of schedule of the deadlines prescribed by the Prohibition.

Following Mr. Ban’s presentation, the Board members, several of its staff, HDWD Directors Mayes and Stadum, other HDWD staff, and several members of the public proceeded to the field tour of sewer project. The tour included visits to the site for the proposed Facility, to a site where a sewer main collector was being installed, to several neighborhoods with newly paved streets, and sites for the pumping plants.

CLOSED SESSION

There was no closed session.

ADJOURNMENT OF BOARD MEETING

Meeting and Tour was adjourned at 4:07 p.m.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: 9:00 a.m., November 9, 2017, Palm Desert, CA.